

Water Words

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Tail water:

The runoff of irrigation water from the lower end of an irrigated field. (See also Return flow)

Tailings pond:

An excavated or diked area that is intended to contain liquid and solid wastes from mining and milling operations.

Tailrace:

The channel that is downstream of the draft tube that carries the water discharged from a turbine. The draft tube is the discharge section of the turbine.

Technology-based limitations:

Industry-specific effluent limitations that are based on best available pollution control technology and included in NPDES permits. If technology-based effluent limitations are not sufficient to prevent the exceedance of water quality standards, the State or Regional Board is required to impose water quality-based effluent limitations.

Tertiary treatment:

Advanced cleaning of wastewater that goes beyond the secondary or biological stage, removing nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and most biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and suspended solids.

Thermal Plan:

Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California, last amended by the State Board in 1975.

Thermal pollution:

Discharge of heated water from industrial processes. Thermal pollution can kill or injure aquatic organisms.

Threatened species:

Under the State or Federal Endangered Species Acts, animal populations may be determined to be either threatened or endangered. Populations listed as threatened are less severely depleted than populations classed as endangered.

Tidal marsh:

Low, flat marshlands traversed by channels and tidal hollows, subject to tidal inundation; normally, the only vegetation present is salt-tolerant bushes and grasses. (See Wetlands)

Tile water:

Intercepted subsurface drainage water.

Time Schedule Order:

Order issued by a Regional Board that requires a set of specific actions a discharger is required to take to correct or prevent violation of WDRs or other enforceable requirements.

Total dissolved solids (TDS):

A measure of the residual minerals dissolved in water that remains after evaporation of a solution. Usually expressed in milligrams per liter. (See Salinity)

Total recovered petroleum hydrocarbon:

A method for measuring petroleum hydrocarbons in samples of soil or water.

Toxaphene:

Chemical that causes adverse health effects in domestic water supplies and is toxic to fresh water and marine aquatic life.

Toxic hot spots:

Locations in enclosed bays, estuaries, or any adjacent waters that have toxic pollution problems in the water or sediment in access of applicable standards.

Toxic Pits Cleanup Act:

Law enacted in 1984 to prevent drinking water supply contamination and to protect other beneficial uses from the effects of improper storage, treatment, and disposal of liquid hazardous wastes in surface impoundments.

Toxic pollutant:

Those pollutants or combinations of pollutants, including disease-causing agents, which after discharge and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation or assimilation into any organism can, on the basis of information available, cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, physiological malfunctions or physical deformation in such organism or their offspring. The quantities and exposures necessary to cause these effects can vary widely.

Toxic Substances Monitoring Program:

Designed to detect the presence and concentration of toxic pollutants in fish and other aquatic organisms in selected California streams and lakes.

Transient water system:

A non-community water system that does not serve 25 of the same nonresidents per day for more than six months per year.

Transmissivity:

The ability of an aquifer to transmit water.

Transpiration:

The process by which water vapor from living plants is lost to the atmosphere.

Treated wastewater:

Wastewater that has been subjected to one or more physical, chemical, and biological processes to reduce its potential of being a health hazard.

Treatment:

Any method, technique, or process designed to remove solids and/or pollutants from solid waste, waste-streams, and effluents

Treatment plant:

A structure built to treat wastewater before discharging it into the environment.

Trickle irrigation:

Method in which water drips to the soil from perforated tubes or emitters.

Trickling filter:

A treatment system in which wastewater is trickled over a bed of stones or other material covered with bacteria that break down the organic waste and produce clean water.

Trihalomethane (THM):

An organic compound named as a derivative of methane. THMs are generally by-products of chlorination of drinking water that contains organic material.

Tube settler:

Device using bundles of tubes to let solids in water settle to the bottom for removal by conventional sludge collection means. Sometimes used in sedimentation basins and clarifiers to improve particle removal.

Tuberculation:

Development or formation of small mounds of corrosion products on the inside of iron pipe. These tubercles roughen the inside of the pipe, increasing its resistance to water flow.

Tundra:

A type of treeless ecosystem dominated by lichens, mosses, grasses, and woody plants. Tundra is found at high latitudes (arctic tundra) and high altitudes (alpine tundra). Arctic tundra is underlain by permafrost and is usually water saturated. (See Wetlands)

Turbidimeter:

A device that measures the cloudiness of suspended solids in a liquid; a measure of the quantity of suspended solids.

Turbidity:

A cloudy condition in water due to suspended silt or organic matter.